

CLAIMS:

1. Method for providing a substrate (20) with a printed pattern (22), comprising the following steps:
 - applying a pattern (22) to the substrate (20) by means of an ink-jet printing process during which a print head (30) for firing ink droplets (32) towards the substrate (20) is used, and during which the print head (30) and the substrate (20) are moved with respect to each other; and
 - diminishing a difference between an evaporation rate of an edge portion (27) of the printed pattern (22) and an evaporation rate of a centre portion (28) of the printed pattern (22) by conditioning the vicinity of at least a portion of the printed pattern (22).
2. Method according to claim 1, comprising the step of covering at least a portion of a vicinity of the printed pattern (22).
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, comprising the step of placing at least a portion of the printed pattern (22) in a vapour environment.
4. Printing machine, equipped for carrying out the method according to claim 1, comprising:
 - at least one print head (30) for releasing ink droplets (32);
 - a table (10) for supporting a substrate (20) having a receiving surface (21) for receiving ink droplets (32) from the at least one print head (30);
 - moving means for moving the at least one print head (30) and the table (10) with respect to each other; and
 - covering means (40) for covering at least a portion of the table (10), which are provided with at least one hole (41) for letting through the at least one print head (30).
5. Printing machine according to claim 4, wherein the covering means (40) are arranged such as to encompass the at least one print head (30).

6. Printing machine according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the covering means (40) are attached to the at least one print head (30).
7. Printing machine according to claim 4, comprising at least two print heads (30), wherein the number of holes (41) in the covering means (40) for letting through the print heads (30) is smaller than the number of print heads (30), and wherein the covering means (40) and the print heads (30) are movably arranged with respect to each other.
8. Printing machine according to claim 7, wherein the covering means comprise a rollable sheet (40), and wherein rotatably arranged rollers (42) are provided for reeling two opposite sides of the sheet (40).
9. Printing machine according to any of claims 4-8, comprising supplying means (51) for supplying vapour to a space (50) which is present between the covering means (40) and the table (10).
10. Printing machine according to any of claims 4-9, comprising extracting means (52) for extracting vapour from a space (50) which is present between the covering means (40) and the table (10).